

February 24, 1992 LB 1120

seems like, so that people don't understand it. And so they won't understand going to the ballot box for a constitutional amendment or whatever, it seems to be what they want. Now you want to talk about the 3-R Committee proposal that the Governor is promoting, to me, it's pure and simple an Omaha bill and why wouldn't the...some...a big city like Omaha, business pays very little in regards to what the rest are going to pay in this. I think it's pure and simple, come out of Omaha, Chamber of Commerce wrote it, that I'm hearing, and it really hits the farm economy. And I think...I don't say the farm people don't need to pay some taxes, I am very upset with Farm Bureau. I have been a member for forty some years and yet I don't think they're listening to their grass roots organization and sometimes I wonder whether there is a grass roots organization there. It used to be, but I've got Farm Bureau members, a lot of them, that are calling and writing into my own and saying, hey, we don't want the 3-R Committee and yet they seem to be proposing it. What I would like about taking everything off is I don't think we have any problems with a constitutional amendment and, as the speakers before me, the letters and the people I'm talking to, I go to town, I was in Norfolk Saturday, I was around in Madison, a number of other towns and Sunday in church and everybody every week keeps telling me, why do you mess around? Why don't you put a sales tax or a combination sales and income tax on? So I think the people are...are responding. I think about everybody I have heard...talked to are hearing the same thing. So why don't we do it? I ask for the adopt...that we vote for Senator Johnson's one-cent sales tax increase. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. President, (sic), and thank you, Senator Baack, for convincing me not to say some things I probably would have said. I appreciate that very much. Thank you. I oppose the amendment for a couple of reasons, two or three reasons. One of them is I...I was going to ask Senator Peterson to respond directly on the mike but I won't do that, rather, I would like all of you that are purporting to support the repeal of all personal property tax to ask yourself, does that include motor vehicles? And my guess is you will say, no, we don't have to repeal the tax on motor vehicles, that's a separate category in the Constitution and we don't have to do that. In a legal sense, you're probably right but from a sake of consistency and from a sake of...of intellectual honesty, if